

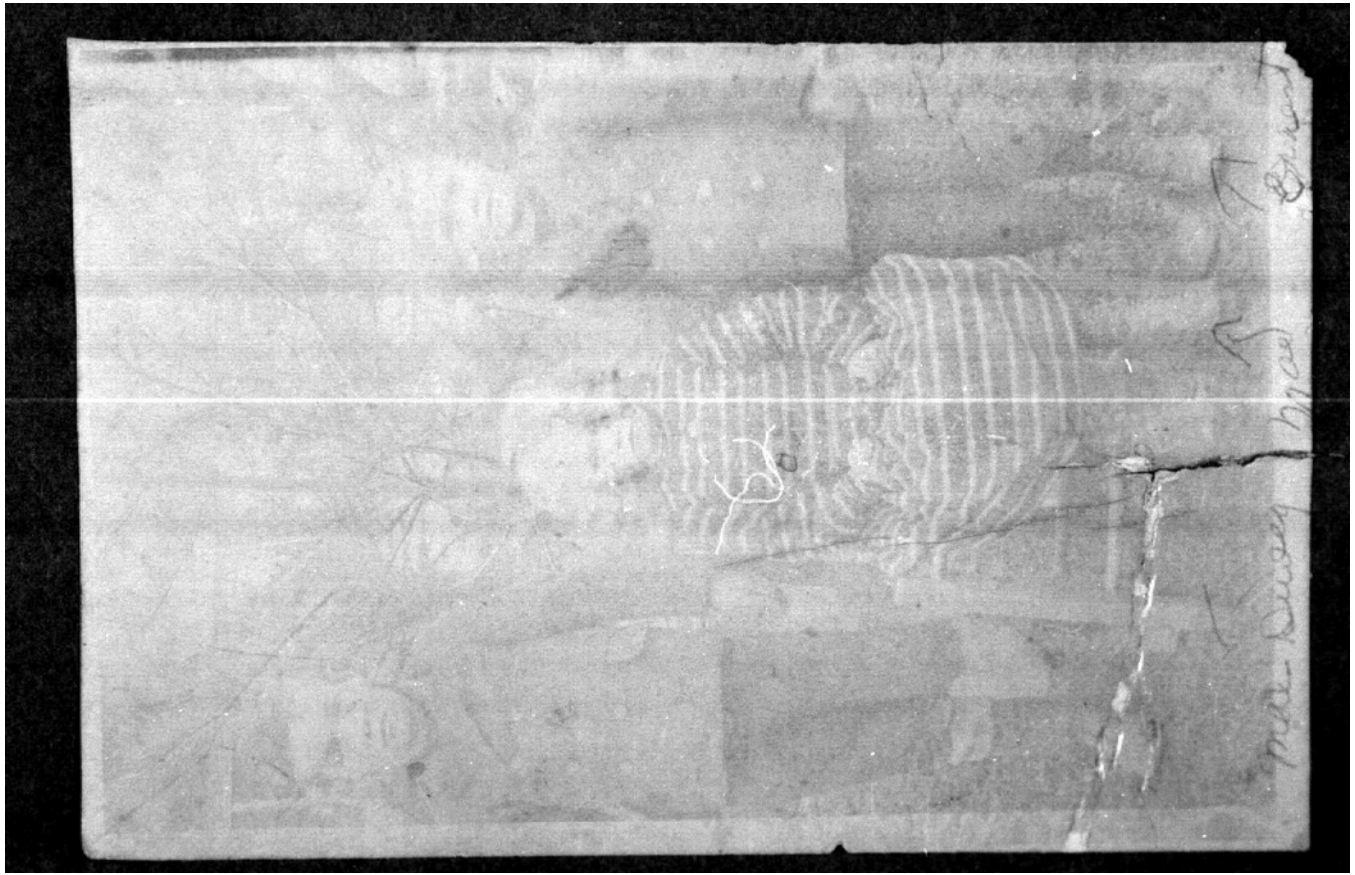




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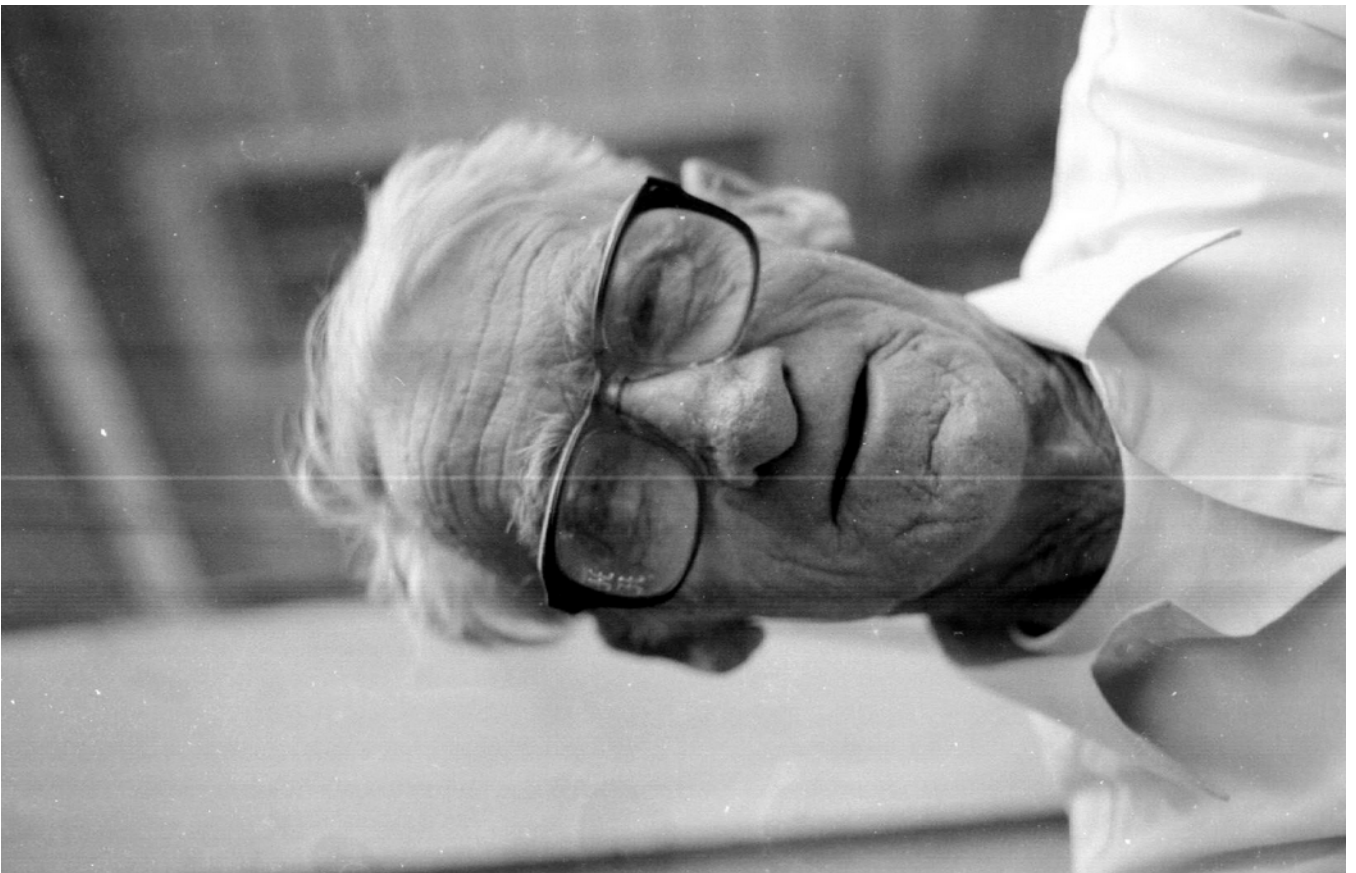








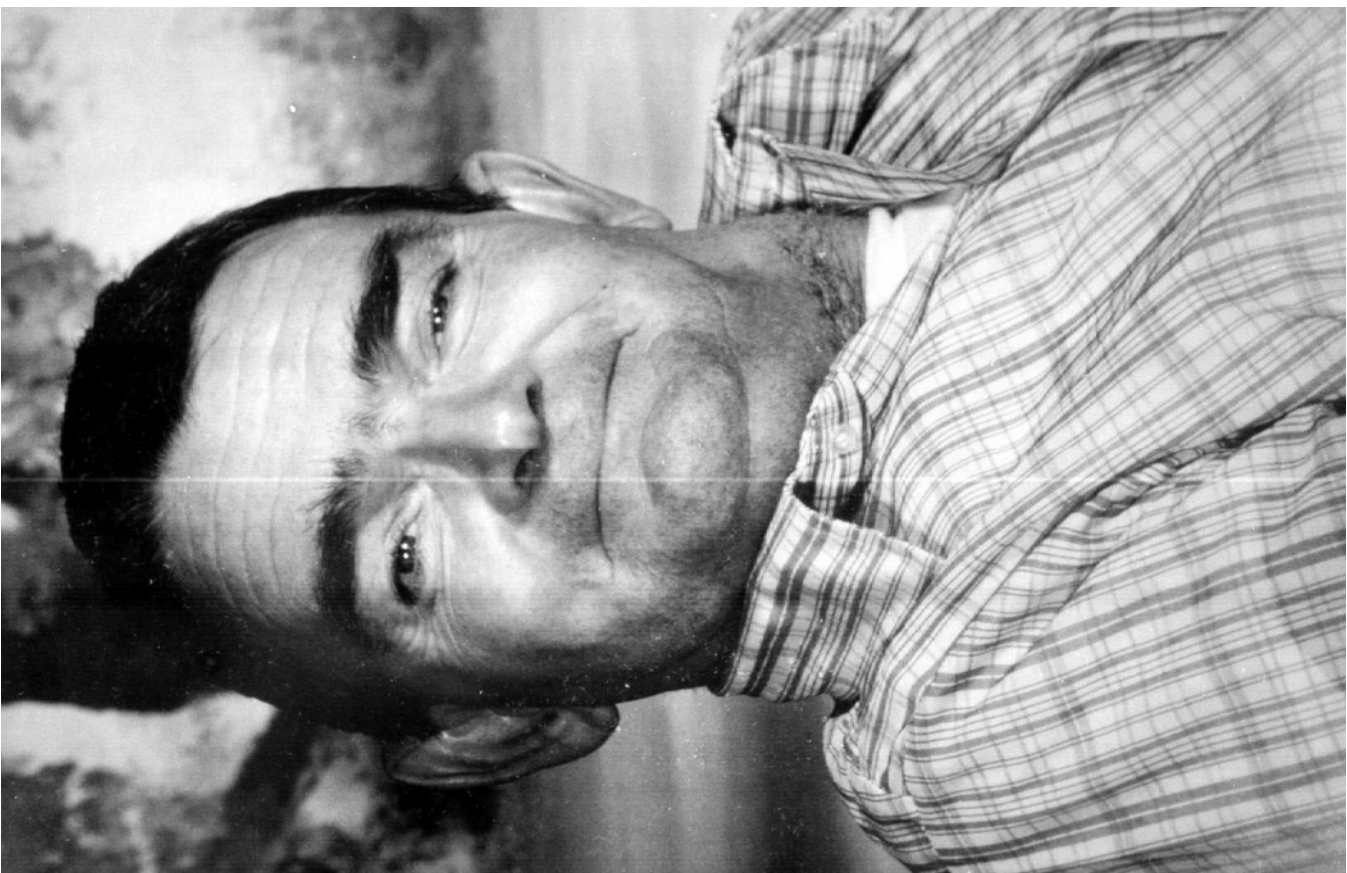


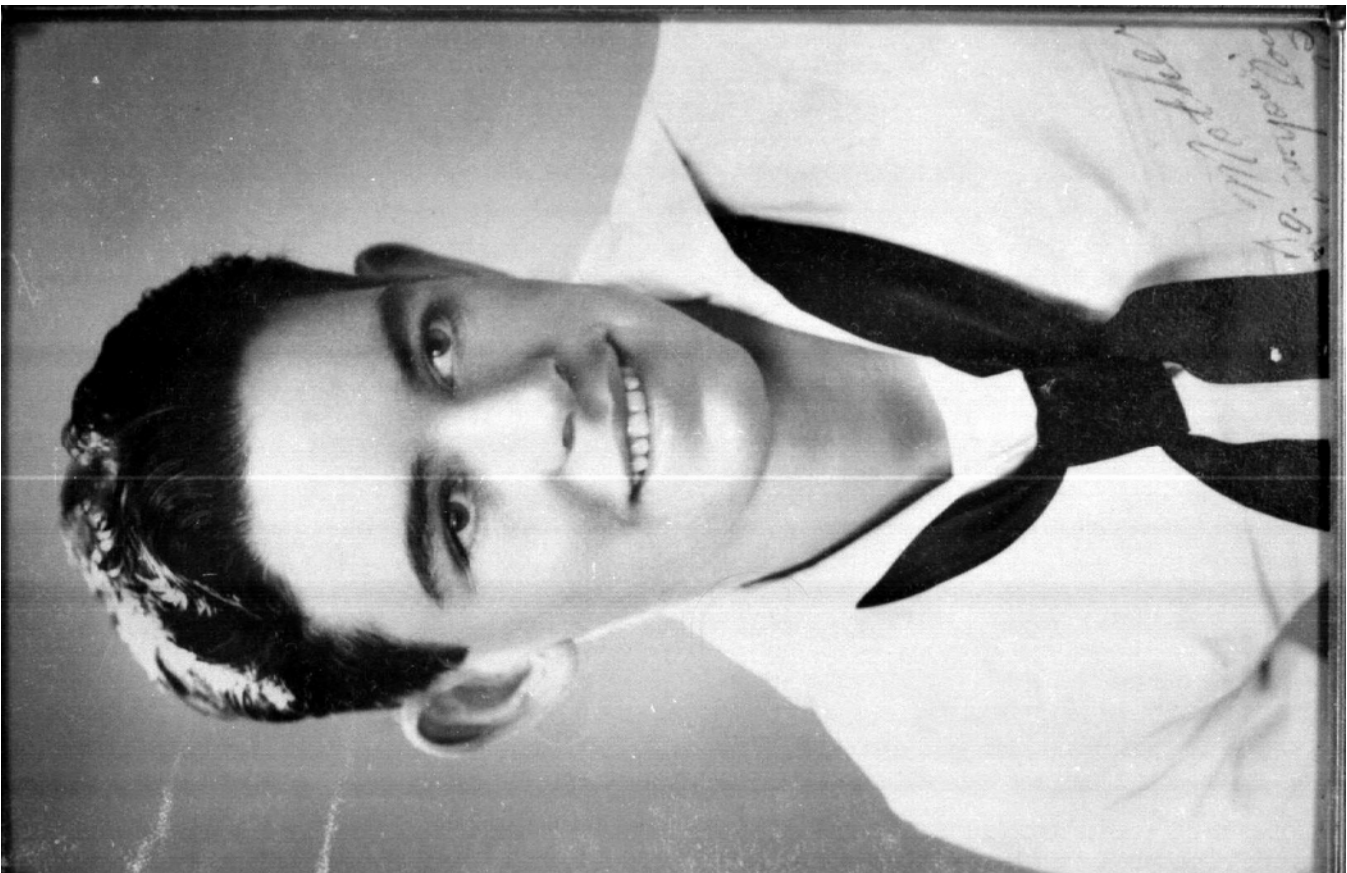


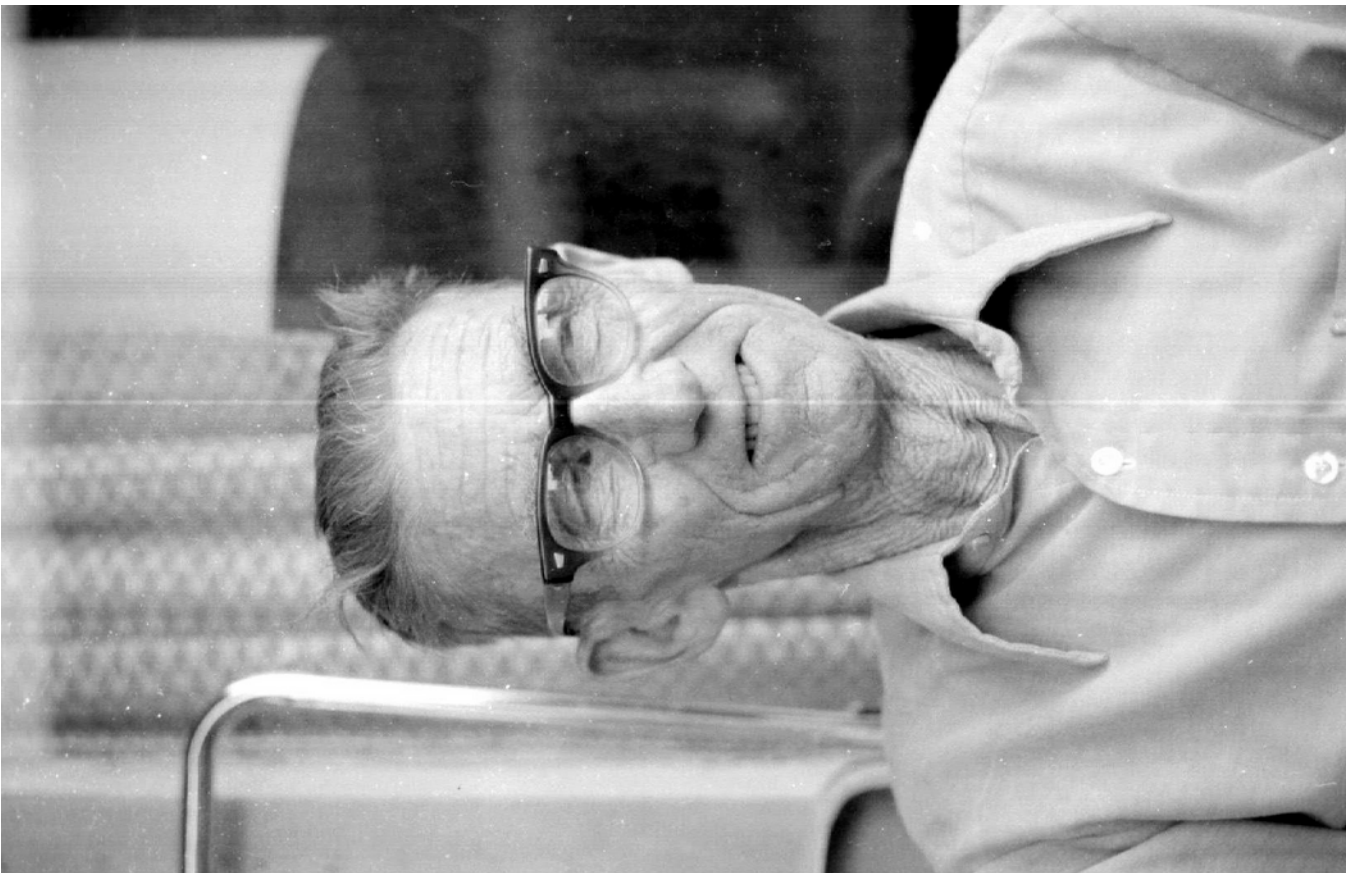


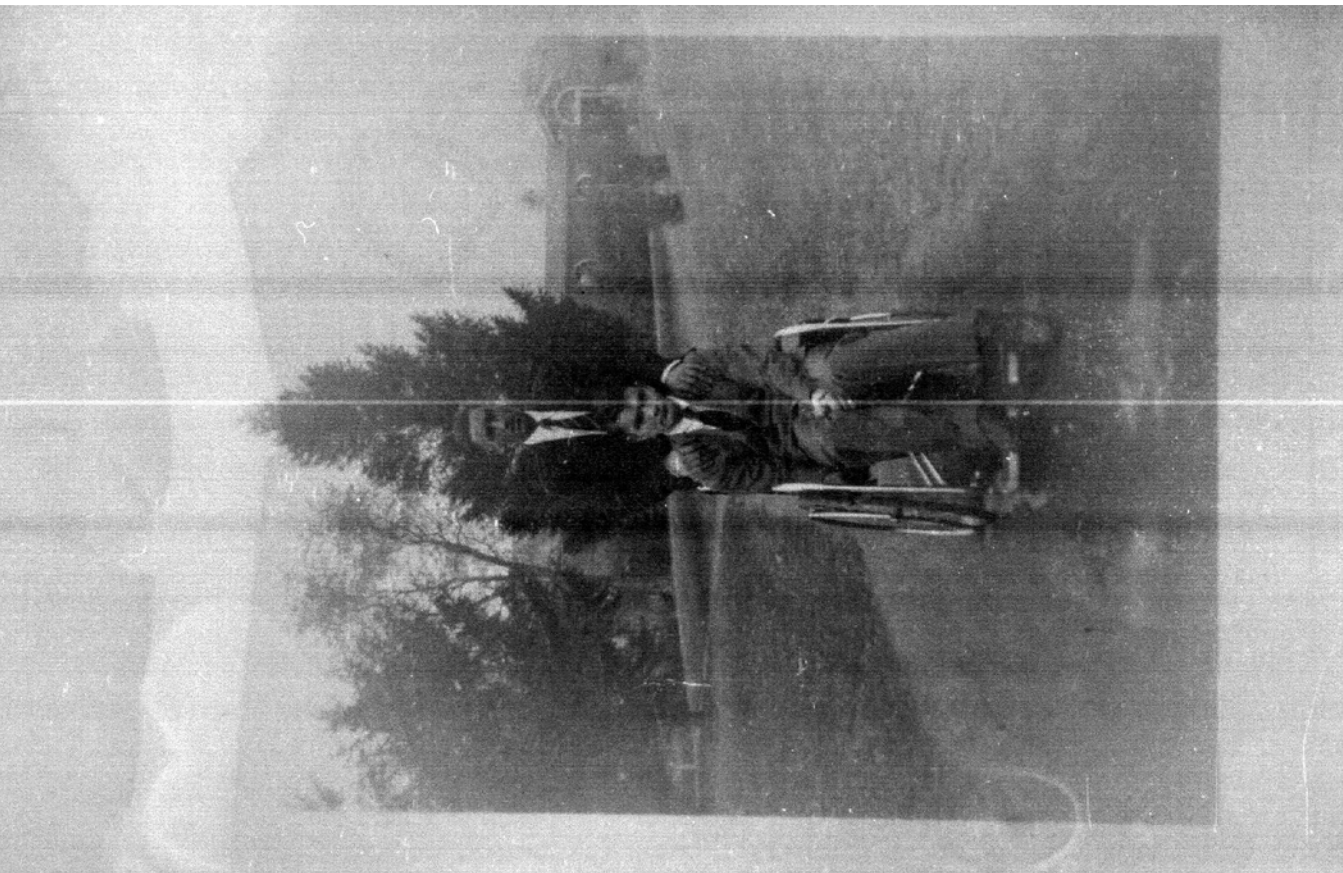


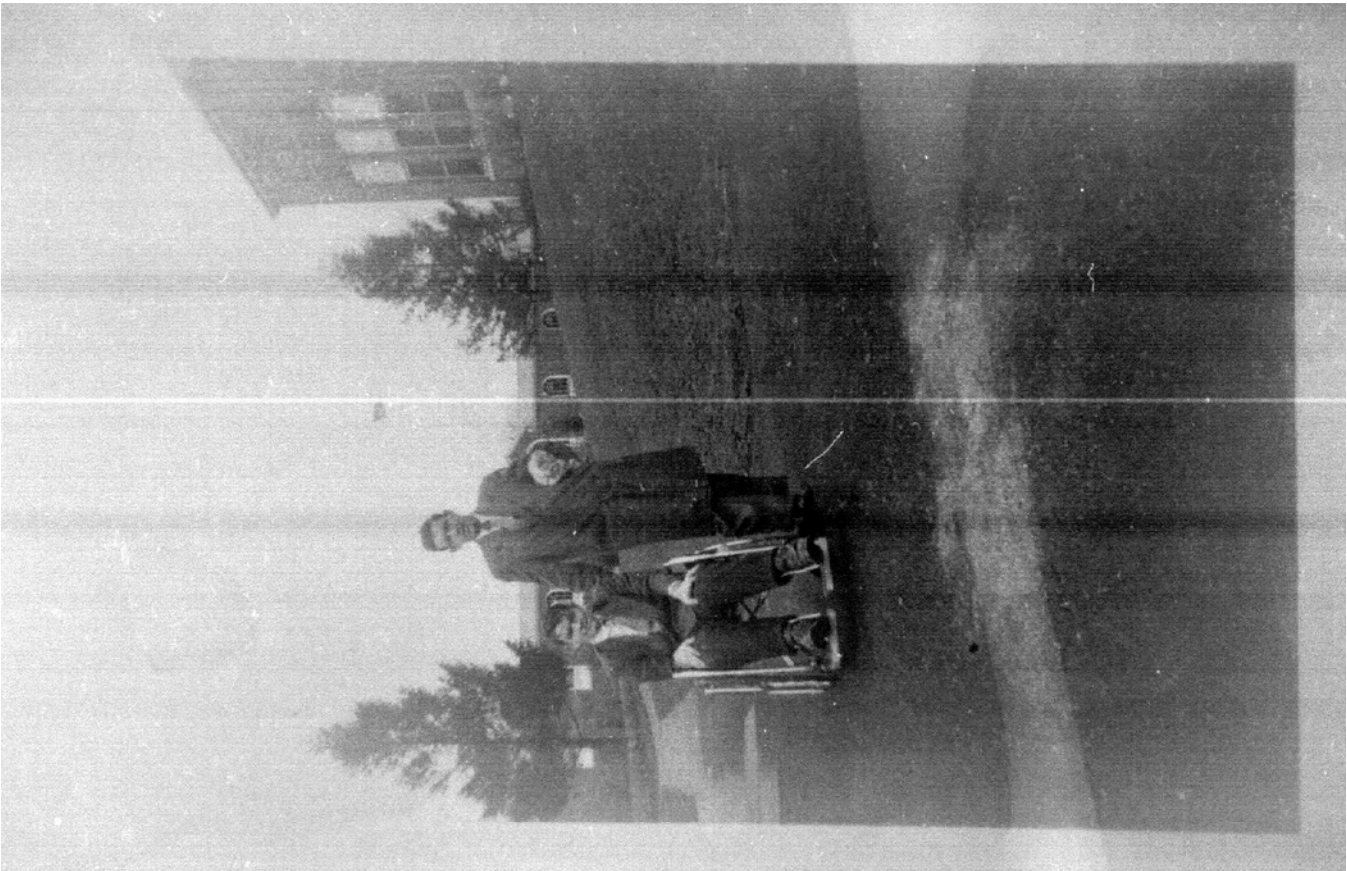


















Van Etten Field Named for Man In Wheel Chair All His Life

A Van Etten man, confined to a wheelchair all of his life, was honored by the Spencer-VanEtten Central School board of education recently when the board approved naming the Van Etten athletic field the "Charles Alderman Field."

Charles Alderman became interested in the youth of Van Etten many years ago and has devoted countless hours to helping them. An avid sports fan, he attends all sports activities of the Spencer-Van Etten School and for many years wrote sports articles for the school newspaper.

When Spencer and VanEtten combined their two schools into one unit, the task of traveling to Spencer became a little too much for him, but he still is active in the youth activities in the Van Etten area.

His long hours of work with the Van Etten youth has now been honored in the naming of the athletic field after him. In other instances, the board received the recommendations of the annual fire inspection reports made last month and took note that the few deficiencies noted in the three buildings have either already been corrected or are in the process of being corrected.

Approval was given to the contract for services with BOCES for the current school year in the amount of \$210,185. The major item of expenditure is for those students of the local district who attend occupational education classes at the BOCES center. Other items in the total include special instruction made available for handicapped students and local participation

in the instructional television network.

The board also approved revised family income standards for determining the eligibility of students to receive free and reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program.

The eligibility standards were established by newly enacted federal legislation.

High School Principal G. Raymond Slarr reported to the board concerning possible realignment of schools within the Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. A league meeting set for Thursday at Dryden will determine whether or not new applications for admission into the conference received from four schools will be approved.

In other business, the board approved the appointment of Mrs. Terri Hurlbert as a teaching assistant for the remainder of the school year to fill the position vacated by the resignation of Mrs. Dorothy Fortia. Named Martin Hodges to the temporary OETA position of cleaner in the High School building from among 12 candidates, and discontinued the policy of overnight class trips, but left open the option of one day excursions for those causes and groups where the interest and funds may be available.

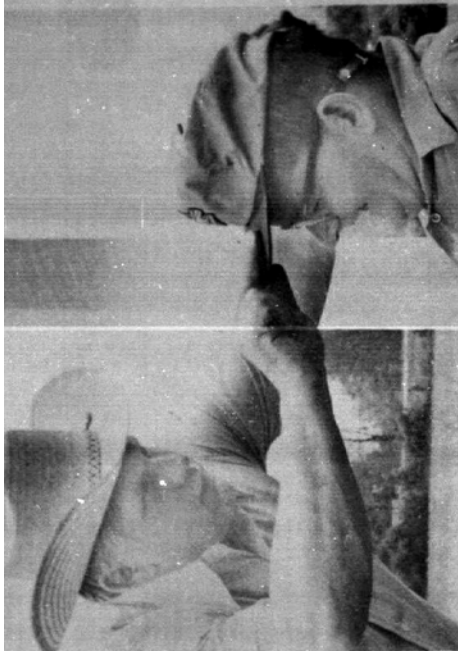
The next regular meeting of the board of education will be held on Jan. 27, at which time the board will hear a report of High School English Coordinator M. Patricia Rice covering the activities of the English program.

The board is also expected to review an update of the district policy manual outlining various operational policies for the school district.

Field Dedicated in Van Etten

Chuck Alderman, a resident of Van Etten for 34 years, gets a Baltimore Orioles baseball cap (above) from attorney William Gallow during ceremonies for field in Van Etten which was dedicated in his honor on Sunday. Alderman, who has been an Oriole fan since the team had a farm club in Elmira, formed the first Little League in Van Etten in 1957. He coached at the junior high there from 1957-67, and he also coached a Babe Ruth League team. Alderman has worked with handicapped youth for most of his life; below, Gallow speaks of Alderman's achievements during ceremonies. Journal Photos by George Clay.

CHUCK ALDERMAN FIELD



We Get Letters

Dear Editor: 1971

In response to the article, "Friend in Alderman," I would like to tell about the four years I helped the man in the wheelchair.

I started working for Mr. Alderman in seventh grade when my brother stopped working for him. At first, it was a strange thing for me, but after working for him for about a month, I had learned some things that few people knew about him.

During the first two years of working for Chuck, I found out that he would try to help me with some of my problems. The last two years were fun for me, since I was able to give someone else help, rather than asking for help all the time.

There have been times that we were thinking on the same line. Many times I found myself doing things by what people might call an instinct for Chuck. Most of my Friday nights were taken up with him and sports, so I was with him then.

I have enjoyed our partnership. I have hopes that nearly everyone feels the same about this friend in the wheelchair.

I would like to say thanks to Mr. Chuck Alderman. He is a true friend.

J. E. Benjamin

Friend in Alderman

by Carla Hulet

Who's that man in the wheelchair we always see around school? Why, that's Charles (Chuck) Alderman, an old friend of the school.

He has been confined to his wheelchair forty-one years with cerebral palsy. But with the help of the Benjamin boys for eleven years and Jerry Harris, he gets around.

Mr. Alderman lives in Van Etten with his father. He has a sister in New York and a brother in California.

He went through the tenth grade. Most of his education was obtained in rehabilitation centers in Cockeysville, Maryland, and at West Haverstraw, N. Y. He also attended Van Etten Central for one year.

Moving to Van Etten in 1942, he began writing the sports column in 1966. He began coaching junior high basketball and baseball in 1968. When Spencer and Van Etten merged, he had junior high baseball for one year.

Mr. Alderman presently writes up school games and town news in the SPENCER NEEDLE. Baseball is his favorite sport, and he finds it the easiest sport to write up.

He's very interested in school activities and young people. The kids have always been kind and thoughtful to him. He said they have done more for him than he could ever do for them.

He finds the new school most important for the kids and thought it should have been done several years ago. He said we should be proud of it and take full advantage of it. He also thought it would make the teachers' work easier, and thus the kids would benefit.

"I'm very impressed with the auditorium and the gym. And I've never seen anything like the library," Mr. Alderman commented. He doesn't care too much for the rock and roll music but enjoys country.

He doesn't think many handicapped people get the opportunities he has had over the past two or three years. He says it's due to the wonderful people of the community, but actually the community is lucky to have such a wonderful man around.

CHARLES ALDERMAN HONORED AT GOIN AWAY PARTY.

Charles "Chuck" Alderman was given a surprise farewell party at the Van Etten Central School on Thursday evening April 23, when around 150 neighbors, friends and schoolmates gathered in the school auditorium. Chuck is going to the Haverstraw Hospital for treatments and plans to leave this week. He has been the proprietor of a gift shop in Van Etten for the past four or five years, taking care of his trade from his wheel chair.

A pal to young and old alike, he will be greatly missed but it is hoped that the treatments will prove a success and Chuck will be back among his friends in the near future.

A pot of money was given him from those present and many who could not attend. Thomas Veasey, President of the Student Council of Van Etten Central School made the presentation. Beverly Koop planned the carnation on his coat as he entered the auditorium.

Dancing, games and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

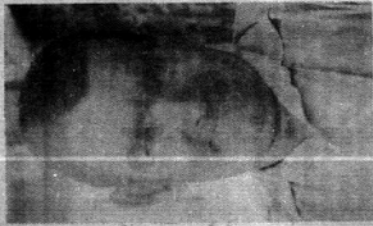
Out of town guests were Mrs. and Mrs. Harry Shepard of Elmira. Mr. Shepard is president of the Polio organization.

Mrs. Leo Yeiser of Candor, President of the Cerebral Palsy Association and Mr. Harold DeYoung of Ethes also associated with the CPA.

The Van Etten Central School student Council Association with the assistance of Mrs. Everett Rodman, sponsored the party.

Good Luck Chuck and come back to Van Etten soon.

We salute . . . Charles G. Alderman



Charles G. Alderman

some little-known statistics.

"It couldn't be done," said Grover. "Charlie can go back to 1946 and name the starting lineups of every team in the majors."

Chuck is "100 per cent of a great guy—anything for the kids," said George W. Nelson, president of the Van Etten Youth Athletic Association. "I love the guy."

"He's been one of the big innovators in Van Etten boys' sports," said Nicholas Marchese, recently retired Spencer-Van Etten School District principal. Marchese recalls when Chuck coached a junior high basketball team at the former Van Etten High School.

"It was remarkable the way he could get attention from kids and run the game from a wheelchair," said Marchese. A native of West Virginia, Chuck has lived in Van Etten for 32 years. His

mother died in 1946 and Chuck's father, Lawrence D., has devoted most of his life to caring for his son.

The idea for Little League in Van Etten was born on a summer afternoon in 1957 while Chuck watched a group of boys "fooling around with a bat and ball."

He suggested they return the following afternoon with more boys and form a team. "You bring the bats and I'll supply the balls," Chuck told them.

With Chuck at the coaching helm, the Van Etten team beat Ithaca 31 in its first game. The uniform was dungarees and T-shirts.

A year later, the Van Etten Boys Baseball Association was formed with Chuck as its first president.

The association fielded one boys' and one girls' team that year.

Today, the league consists of four boys' and four girls' teams for 8-to-12-year-olds. There is also a minor league team for the younger kids and a teenage team for 13-to-16-year-olds.

Physical limitations forced Chuck to give up active participation after a decade of service. A long-time sports correspondent for the Spencer Needle, Chuck was forced to give up typing when paralysis stilled his huge hands.

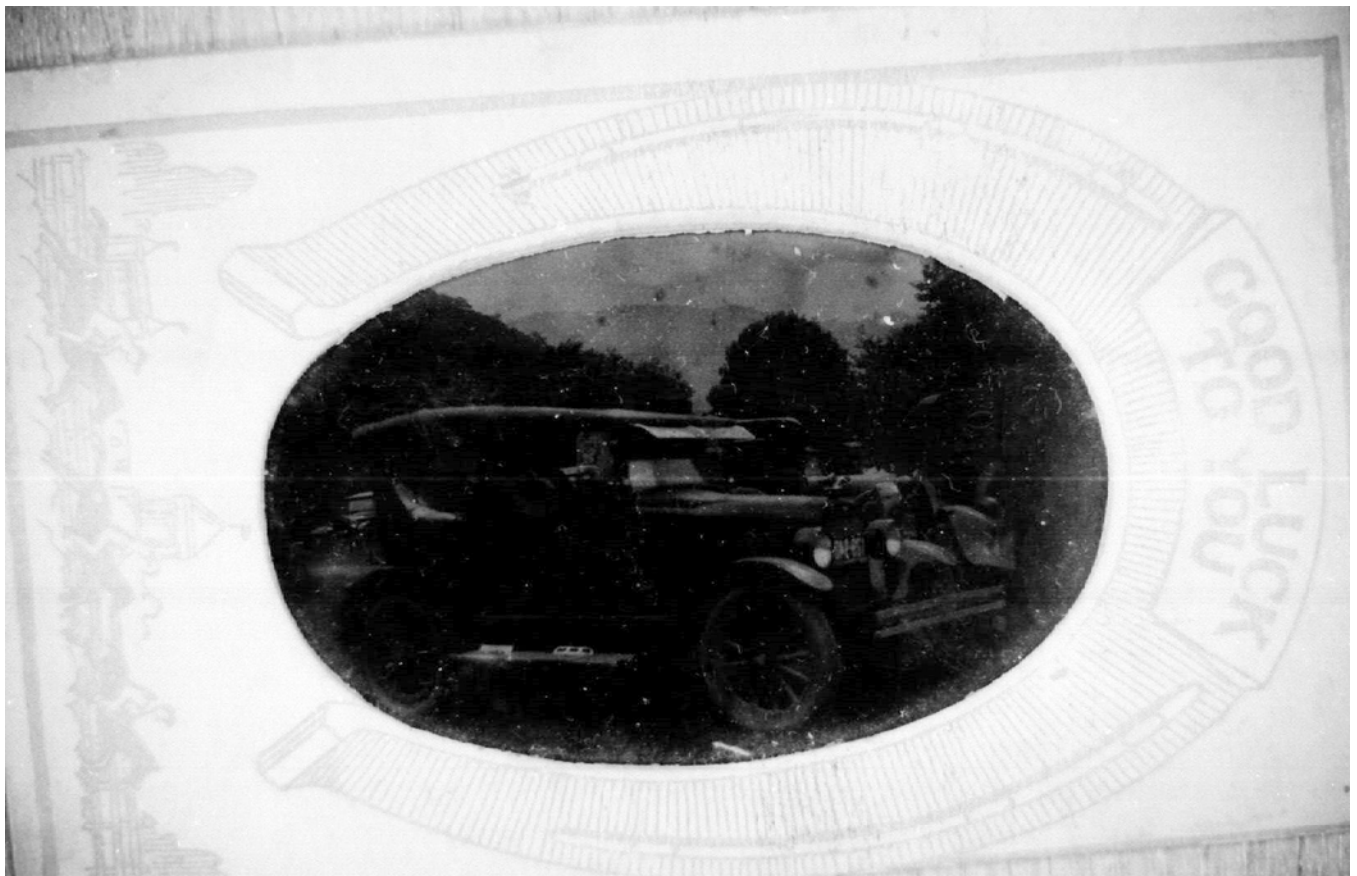
But Chuck's devoted father still wheels his son around town for rides with friends. Children still flock to the Alderman perch at 28 Front St. to chat and help Chuck in his reading by turning the pages of his book.

Chuck maintains an active interest in the town's youth activities. He can bring you up to date on the latest news.

After all, it wouldn't do for the Number One man in town to fall behind on his responsibilities.















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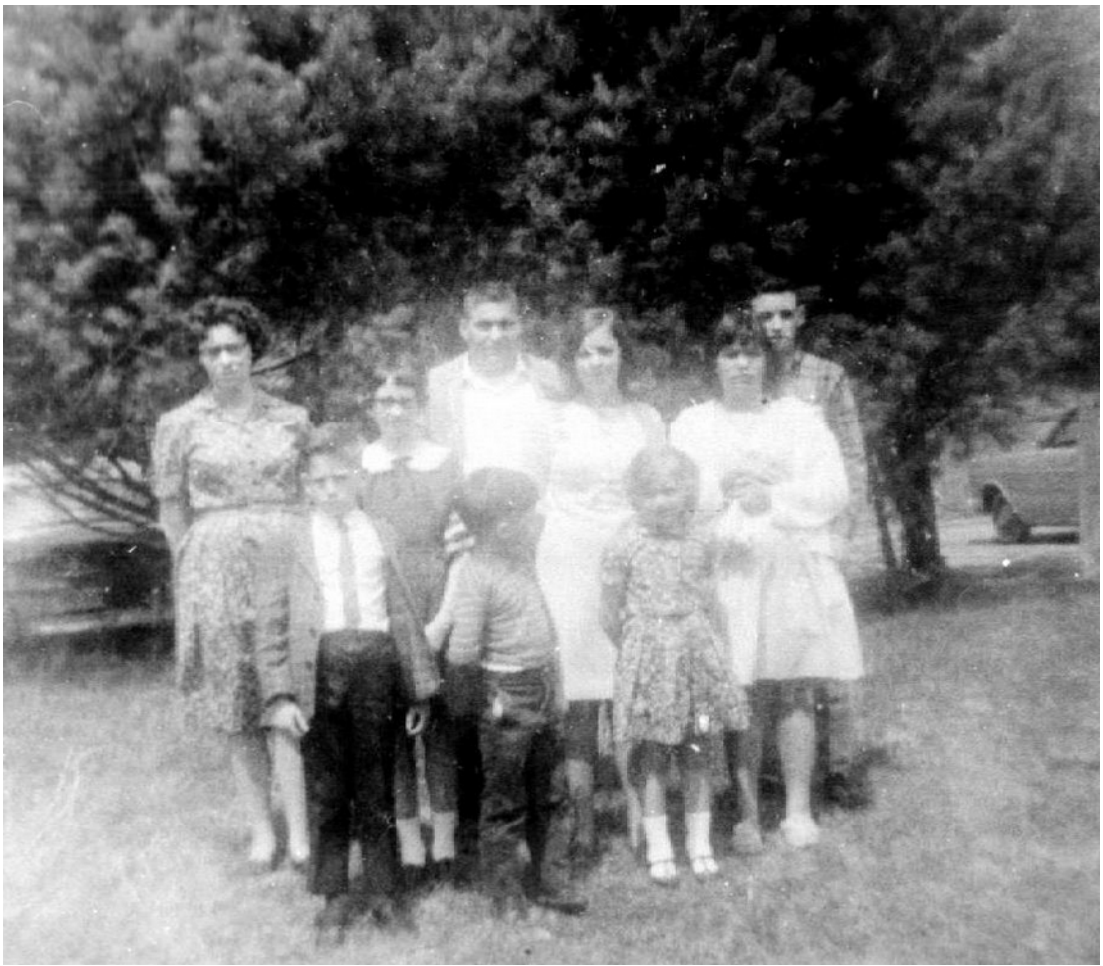


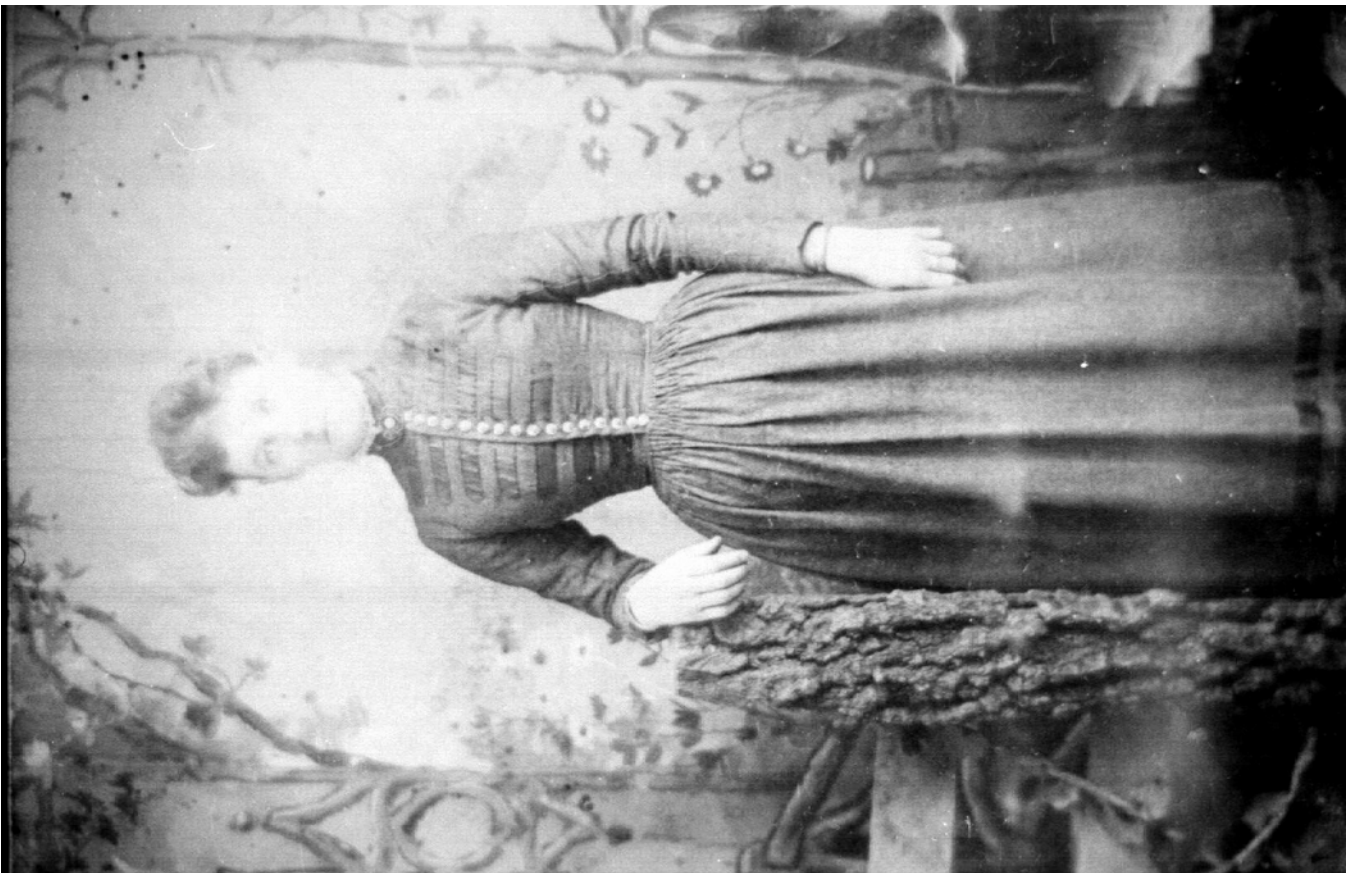


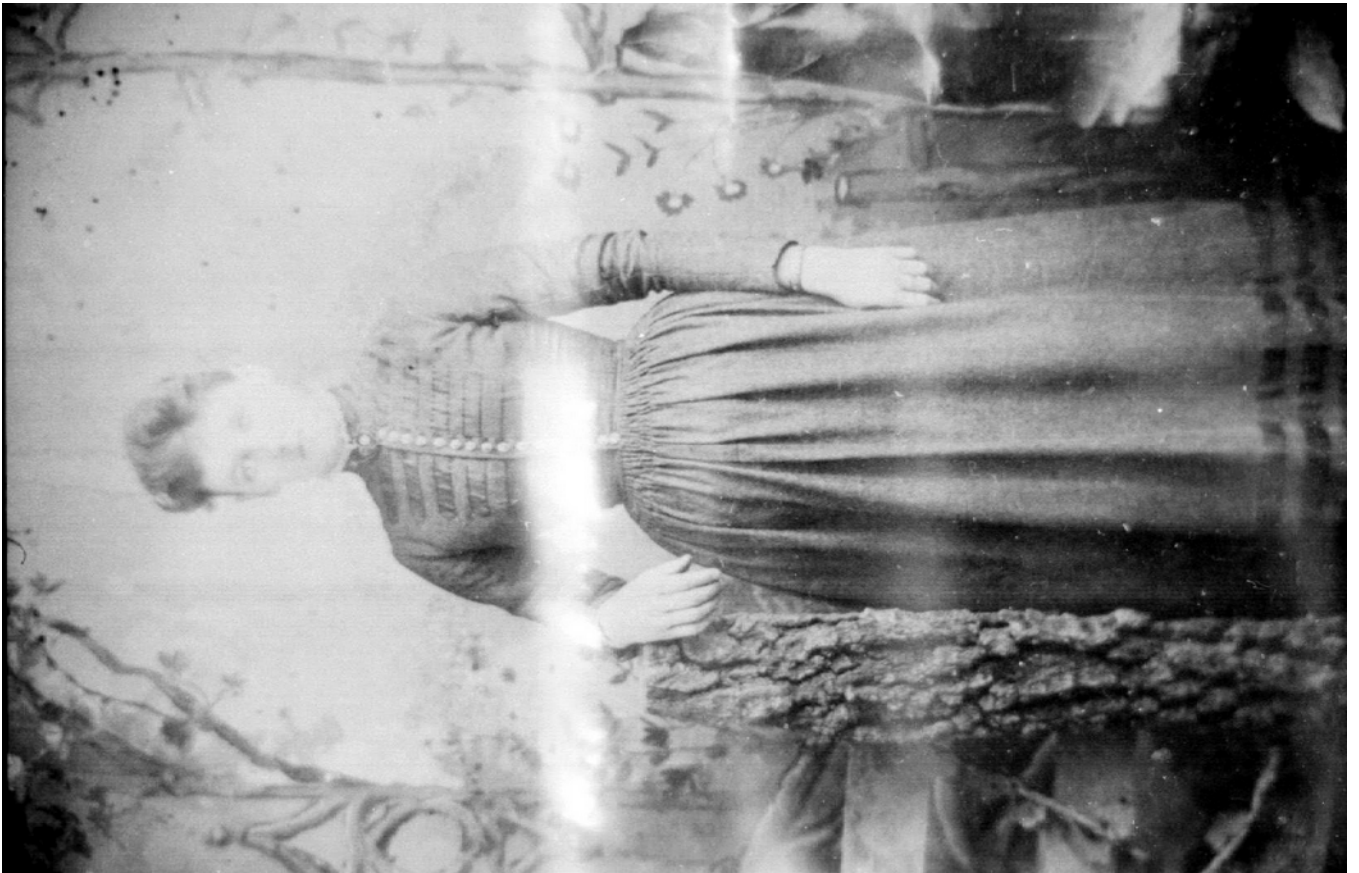
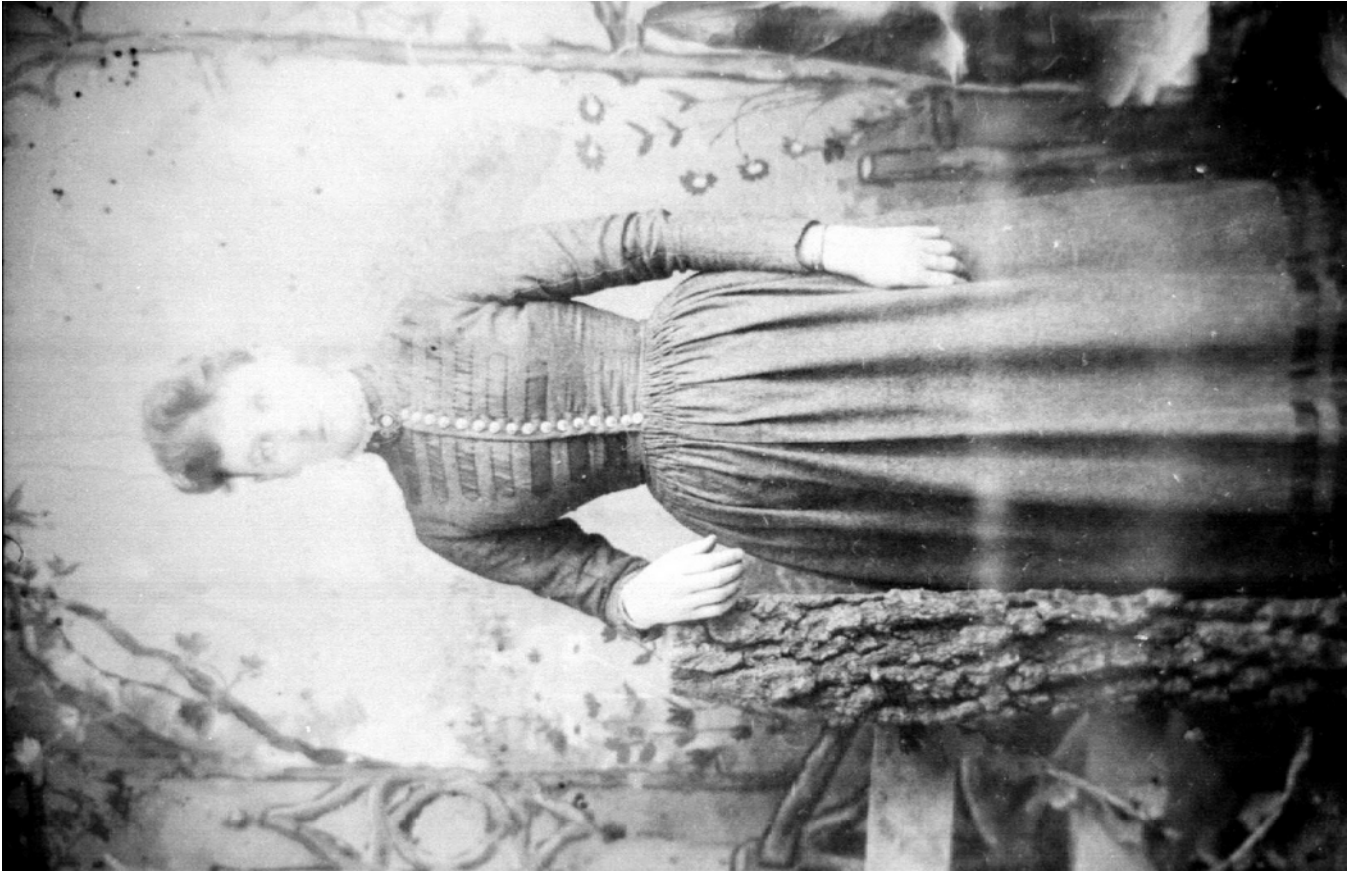


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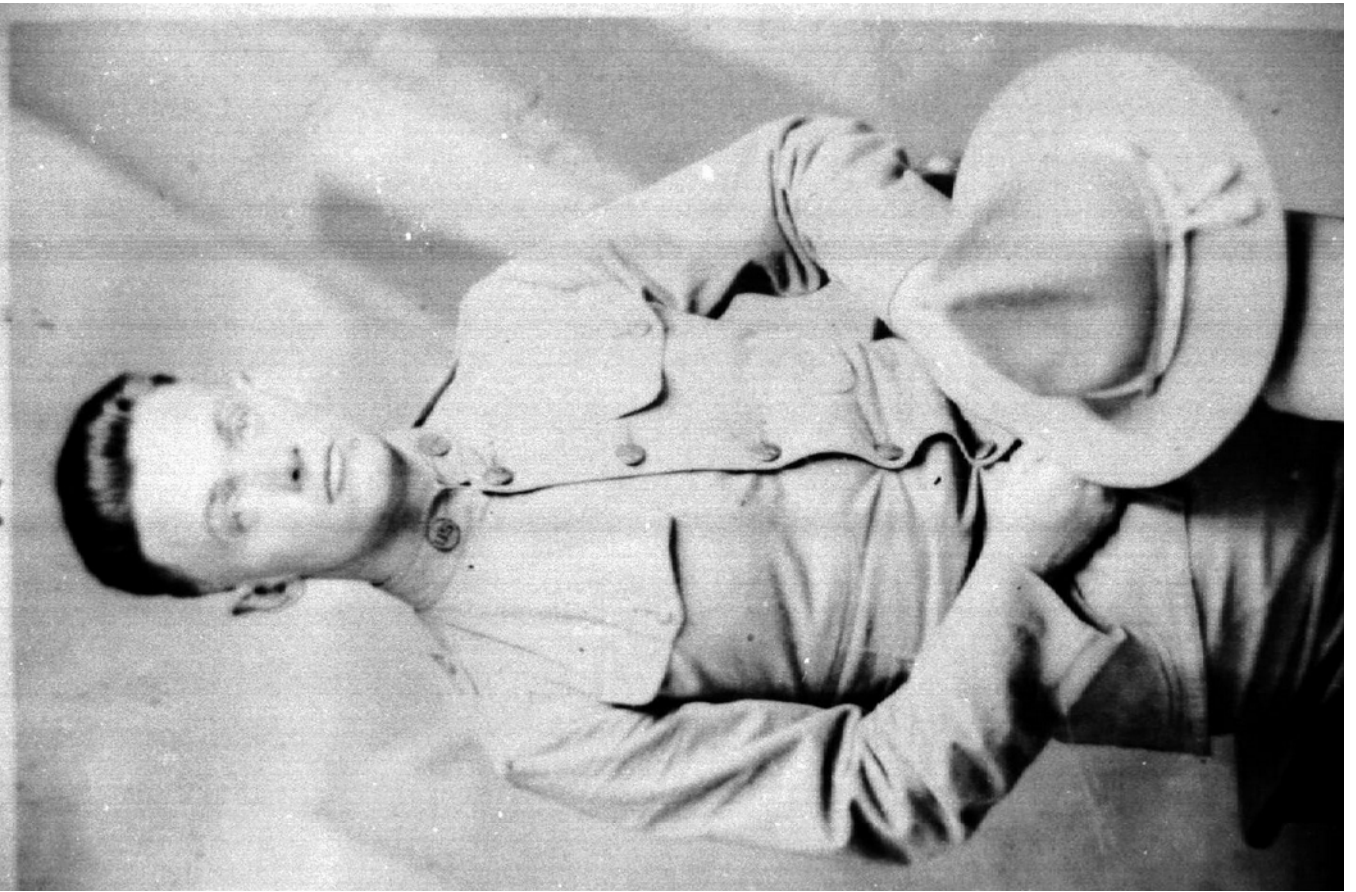














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